



Beginnings #10

3/13/22

Genesis 12:1-17:6

1. Read some context for the beginning of Abram’s story in Genesis 11:27-32. Note that Abram’s father leaves Ur with the intent to go to Canaan, but stops in Haran. It is from here that God calls Abram to complete the journey to Canaan in 12:1-3.

**Have you had a time in your life where you felt God leading you in a specific direction, but you stopped halfway there?

2. God calls Abram to “leave your father’s household.” But in 12:4, the Bible says that “Lot went with him.”

**Did Abram disobey God by taking Lot?

For more discussion: Consider the stories that involve Lot in Genesis 13-14 and 19. Lot seems to cause a lot of trouble for Abram.

**Does this provide any further evidence about Abram’s potential disobedience by taking Lot?

3. Drew talked a lot about “hedging your bets against God’s promises.” Through the stories of Genesis that Drew described (especially Abram having a son with his slave girl, Hagar), it seems as though Abram was doubting God often. However, he also had moments of great faith, such as actually leaving his father’s land, and trusting that God would fulfill his promise in 15:5-6.

**What does the word “faith” mean to you?

For more discussion: Watch the Bible Project’s video, “Faithful,” that is linked on the Greater Story Resources page.

**What did you learn about faith by watching this video?

**Consider how the video showed people stepping onto a steady mountain that represented God. Describe a time in your life where you were on the rock (trusting in God’s trustworthiness, i.e. having faith in God) but you stepped off.

4. Drew mentioned that God changed the name of Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah, which reflected their calling - that they would become the parents of many. This identity change was difficult to accept at first, but because they had faith, they became the parents of the family that led to the blessing of the nations: Jesus.

****If you are willing, describe how you “became a follower of Jesus” or “put your faith in God” and how your life is different because of it.**

5. Drew said that, “God doesn’t call the qualified, but he qualifies the called.” It doesn’t matter what your past looks like (remember that King David was an adulterer and murderer), God can redeem you, and qualifies you before he calls you.

****What do you think God has called you to?**

****What steps can you take to fulfill that calling?**